

REMARKS

The Office action mailed May 25, 2005 has been received and reviewed. All claims stand finally rejected. Applicants propose amending the application as previously set forth. Basis for the amendments to claim 1 and claim 5 can be found in paragraph [041] on page 16 in the as-filed specification. The present amendment thus adds no new matter. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Personal Interview:

Applicants would like to thank the Office for the courtesy extended applicants' representative in granting the interview of June 20, 2005. As discussed at the interview, applicants propose to amend the claims as previously set forth in order to recite "breakdown product" rather than "peptide derivative" of the "oligopeptide of at most 30 amino acids". As a "breakdown product" of the parent oligopeptide by necessity is composed of fewer constitutive peptide-bonded amino acids than the parent oligopeptide, the breakdown products of oligopeptides therefore also contain fewer than 30 amino acids, and the 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejection should be overcome, and place amended claims 1-5 in condition for allowance.

As summarized at the end of the interview:

"Applicants' representative proposed an amendment to the claims which appears to obviate the outstanding 35 USC 102 rejection of the claims."

The proposed amendments should be entered as they place the claims in condition for allowance, or at least certainly in better condition for appeal. They also are not believed to raise new issues since the discussions to date with the Office have focused on the length of a potential peptide derivative exceeding thirty amino acids in view of the Lunardi-Iskandar reference.

Serial No. 10/028,075

If questions should exist after consideration of the foregoing, the Office is kindly requested to contact applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allen C. Turner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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ACT/sjb